61. Travelling Allowance. The revision of the travelling allowance rules, referred to in paragraph 58 of my last year's address, has recently been sanctioned, and the revised rules have been brought into force tentatively for a period of eighteen months from the 1st Kumbham, 1100. The chief features of this revision are the elimination of the special rates for particular officers specified in Appendix III of the Service Regulations and the raising of the minimum rate of daily allowance from eight to fourteen chackrams in the case of superior servants and from six to ten chackrams in the case of inferior servants. All public servants, except menials, who travel by public conveyances, have been declared eligible only for double the actual fare paid by them, and they have been debarred from claiming mileage in respect of such journeys.

Local Self-Government.

62. Municipalities. The nineteen Municipal Councils of the State, which were constituted in Kanni, 1097, under the provisions of Regulation V of 1095, completed their term of three years in the early part of the current year, and fresh Councils have taken their places. The present aggregate strength of the Councils is 307, of which number 54 alone are nominated official members, recruited mainly from the Medical and Public Works Departments for the purpose of giving technical advice, while the remaining 253 are non-officials, mostly elected. All the Councils, except that of Trivandrum, now elect their own non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents. The extension of this privilege to the Trivandrum Municipal Council awaits amendments to the Municipal Regulation enabling the entertainment of a Chief Executive Officer.

63. The minor roads and streets within the towns of Alleppey and Nagercoil, which were handed over to the respective Municipal Councils under the conditions mentioned in paragraph 61 of my address last year, were maintained by them in 1099; and the Nagercoil Municipal Council spent as much as Rs. 10,498 for carrying out important public works such as the widening of lanes and the improvement of streets. Encouraged by the example of these two Councils, the Councils of Quilon, Kottayam and Parur have expressed their willingness to take over the maintenance of minor roads and streets within their jurisdiction on similar conditions, and their proposals are now under the consideration of the Government. In the matter of incurring expenditure on education, the Councils of Alwaye and Attingal have stolen a march over the other Councils by undertaking each to maintain an English middle school for girls. The Council of Alwaye is also subsidising a grant-in-aid *Vaidyasala* within its jurisdiction, while the Kottayam and Alwaye Councils are subsidising a grant-in-aid *Vishavaidyasala* each in those towns. The Councils of Trivandrum, Quilon and Padmanabhapuram have made arrangements for holding night schools. Trivandrum has hitherto been the only Council watering the main roads of the town during the hot weather, but Quilon and Kottayam have also now proposed to do the same. The Municipal Council of Quilon has, as I have already said, added to its staff a lady health visitor, while the Alleppey Municipal Council has given a substantial grant to the recently started Health and Child Welfare Association in the town. Some of the Councils, notably Nagercoil, have begun to exhibit commendable activity in the development of their resources by undertaking quasi-commercial enterprises like opening new markets and cart-stands. These facts show that the Municipal Councils are no longer content to sit still and attend only to sanitation but are starting new lines of advance which will make their existence more beneficial to the people committed to their charge. The Government have been allowing these self-governing institutions the utmost possible measure of freedom and they realise that any forcing of the pace of progress is neither desirable nor expedient. The receipts and the expenditure of Municipalities have risen from Rs. 2,05,980 and Rs. 2,13,553 to Rs. 3,28,138 and Rs. 3,25,579, respectively, within the last four years.

64. Panchayat and Bench Courts. The number of cases disposed of by the Village Panchayat Courts has risen from 4,541 to 9,944 within the last four years. Some of the Panchayat Courts were, as you are aware, constituted in 1098 into Bench Courts for the trial of criminal cases. Four first class and four second

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly